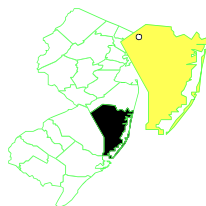


SPENCE FARM

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD980532816



EPA REGION 2 CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 4

Ocean County
Plumsted Township

Other Names:
Thiokol Corporation Site

Site Description

The Spence Farm site covers about 83 acres in Plumsted Township, 2 miles northeast of New Egypt. From the 1950s to the 1970s, hazardous wastes in drums, bulk, and free-flowing liquid form were disposed of in approximately 20 acres of wooded and low-lying areas of the site. Some of the drums were intact, while others appeared to have been opened prior to dumping. Other drums rusted enough to allow their contents to leak out. Laboratory wastes were scattered throughout the disposal area. State investigations found volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater and surface water. Spence Farm is one of four National Priorities List sites, including Pijak, Hopkins and Goose Farms, within a 2-mile radius. The site is in a rural area, and the land is used for agriculture. An estimated 6,600 people reside within 3 miles of the site, and 1,500 residents depend on groundwater for drinking water and other domestic purposes. Two municipal water wells are located about 1 ½ miles from the site. On the site are two tributaries to Crosswick Creek.

Site Responsibility: This site has been addressed through a combination of Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/01/81

Final Date: 09/01/83

Deletion: 03/03/97

Threats and Contaminants



Groundwater and sediments were contaminated with the VOC acetone; phthalate, a plastics by-product; phenol; and the heavy metals zinc, chromium, and mercury. Soil was contaminated with VOCs including methylene chloride and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). In addition, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were present in the soil. Crosswick Creek contained mercury, zinc, and toluene. Contact with or ingestion of the water, as well as sediments, may have posed a health threat. Individuals who came into direct contact with PCB-contaminated soils may have been at risk. Groundwater at the site flows toward tributaries of Crosswick Creek, which may have allowed contaminated groundwater to migrate to the surface water. The removal of surface waste and contaminated soil has greatly reduced the risk posed by possible ingestion of these contaminated materials, as well as removing a source of groundwater contamination.



Clean up Approach

The site has been addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status



Immediate Actions: In 1982, the State installed 16 monitoring wells for sampling of groundwater.



Entire Site: The EPA selected a remedy in a 1984 Record of Decision to clean up the site by: (1) removing all drums and laboratory wastes and disposing of them at a federally approved facility; (2) excavating contaminated soil and disposing of it at a federally approved facility; (3) installing a system to control the sediment so contaminants do not migrate during excavation; and (4) monitoring the groundwater for 5 years to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup.

Site Facts: In 1985, the State and Morton-Thiokol entered into an Administrative Order on Consent requiring the company to clean up the site.

Cleanup Progress



(Threat Mitigated by Physical Clean-up Work)

The party potentially responsible for the site contamination, Morton International, under State supervision, completed the removal and disposal of drummed waste, laboratory waste and visibly contaminated soil to an approved facility, thereby eliminating risks posed by exposure to these materials. However, soil sampling conducted subsequent to completion of these activities displayed the presence of residual PCB contamination in soil prompting further remedial action. Morton International removed the remaining contaminated soil between 1989 and 1994. In all,

approximately 4,360 cubic yards of waste material and contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of off site. Furthermore, the results of groundwater sampling conducted over a five-year period indicate that the groundwater is clean. Therefore, the site was deleted from the National Priorities List in March 1997.